LEVEL news

Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River Water Levels

PDF Format

About LEVEL news

Contents

The World Wide Web--the Access Medium of Choice

Great Lakes Water Level Information

Current Water Level Conditions

Hurricane Isabel

Storm Season Reminder

Thank you

September Precipitation

September Outflows

Water Levels for the Great Lakes and Montreal Harbour *a monthly bulletin from Canadian Hydrographic Service*

About the monthly Water Level bulletin

September Precipitation Over the Great Lakes

As a percentage of the long-term September average:

Great Lakes Basin 122%

Lake Erie (including Lake St. Clair) 169%

Lake Superior 137%

Lakes Michigan- 104%

Volume 11, Number 10 October 8, 2003

The World Wide Web--the Access Medium of Choice

Based on feedback received from mailing list subscribers, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) has decided to cancel printing and mailing copies of the Monthly Bulletin: "Water Levels, Great Lakes and Montreal Harbour" to the public after this month's edition.

Therefore, LEVELnews, which has been distributed along with the Bulletin for the past 10 years, courtesy of DFO, will no longer be mailed to subscribers as well.

Both the Bulletin and LEVELnews will continue to be available on the World Wide Web. DFO has also enhanced the Monthly Bulletin's website. You can still view the Bulletin directly on your computer screen, but starting this month you can also open, view, and print an Adobe Portable Document Format (or PDF) version. When printed on standard letter size paper, the PDF version has the same look and feel as the hardcopy version you are used to-except for an added splash of colour.

Be sure to look for the Bulletin on the Web at its new address:
http://chswww.bur.dfo.ca/danp/

You'll also find links directly to LEVELnews on many of DFO's web pages.

Great Lakes Water Level Information

	September Monthly Mean Level		Beginning of October Level	
Lake	Compared to Monthly Average (1918-2002)	Compared to One Year Ago	Compared to Beginning-of-Month Average (1918-2002)	Compared to One Year Ago
Superior	29 cm below	15 cm below	25 cm below	12 cm below
Michigan-Huron	61 cm below	30 cm below	61 cm below	30 cm below
St. Clair	27 cm below	14 cm below	31 cm below	18 cm below

Erie	11 cm below	same	13 cm below	4 cm above
Ontario	2 cm above	10 cm above	1 cm above	11 cm above

Huron

Lake Ontario 114%

Note: These figures are preliminary.

September Outflows From the Great Lakes

As a percentage of the long-term September average:

Lake Superior 86%

Lake Erie 94%

Lake Huron 81%

Lake Ontario 100%

Note: These figures are preliminary.

Last Issue

Next Issue

Issue Index

Summary information for "LEVEL*news*"

Current Water Level Conditions

As indicated in the water level information table provided below, water levels on all of the Great Lakes, except Lake Ontario, are below their long-term average as well as levels recorded at the same time last year.

Water levels on lakes Superior and St. Clair are about the same as they were two years ago. Lakes Erie and Ontario are currently about 15 cm higher than they were in 2001. Water levels on Lakes Michigan-Huron began October about 12 cm lower than they were at the same time in 2001.

Although water levels on Lakes Michigan-Huron are still several centimetres above their 1918-2002 period-of-record lows recorded in 1964, levels are currently the lowest they have been at this time of year since then. The latest six-month forecast indicates that if low water supply conditions persist throughout the fall and early winter, levels on Lakes Michigan-Huron could begin 2004 as low as they were in 1964. New record low levels are possible under very dry conditions.

Hurricane Isabel

The remnants of Hurricane Isabel passed over the Great Lakes region on September 19th. Although localized areas did experience intense rain, overall rainfall amounts were less than many people had anticipated. A review of the daily water level data for lakes Erie and St. Clair suggests that the added moisture from the storm did results in a brief pause in the seasonal decline in levels on both lakes.

Storm Season Reminder

Autumn often brings storms packing high winds to the Great Lakes region. Watching large waves crash against the shore can be an enjoyable activity, but please don't risk being swept into the lake by a storm-generated wave. Be sure to stand well back from the water's edge during a storm event.

Thank you

Over the past 10 years, Environment Canada has prepared LEVELnews each month for distribution with the Monthly Water Level Bulletin. The editor of LEVELnews would like to take this opportunity to thank Fisheries and Oceans Canada for helping Environment Canada provide Great Lakes' water level information to the public.

Top of Page

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Webmaster
Last Updated: 2003-10-08
Last Reviewed: 2003-10-08
Important Notices and Disclaimers
URL: http://www.on.ec.gc.ca/water/level-news/ln200310_e.html